

THE NUR AFSEAN

Vol. VI.

FRIDAY:—JULY 11th, 1902.

No. 28.

Editorial Notes.

The attention of our readers is called to note The review of Christian books in Urdu addressed to Muhammadans, of which a few numbers will be presented to the readers of the *Nur Afshan*, in the hope that they will aid the reviewer by supplying to him any items of interest in regard to these books and their authors. We hope they will not hesitate to correct any errors noticeable. The object of this series of reviews, the larger of which will appear in the *Indian Evangelical Review*, is to bring to the notice of those who are not acquainted with Urdu the literature in that language available for use among Muslims.

It is also expected that this review will disclose our literary needs and at the same time suggest to us the way to supply what is wanted.

There has been a conviction in many minds, that much of the writing on the Muslim controversy is like the threshing of old straw. There has been too much literary strength spent upon old issues which have been settled. It is true that Muslims always reply to the Christian assault. Our business however is rather to show the weakness of the reply than to repeat the assault.

We expect the review of the literature for Muslim readers to disclose to all, what is already apparent to many; viz; that our attitude toward the Mu-

hammadan has hardly been Christian. Instead of approaching the Muslim in the spirit of our Master, we have been too ready to adopt the methods of Islām. We have gone out, armed with various weapons of controversy. We have been more deeply impressed by the theological errors of the Muslims than by their sinful condition before God. In short we have been prone to use carnal, rather than spiritual weapons in our warfare with Islām.

This attitude of mind is apparent in the bulk of our literature for Muslim readers. We are made glad by the change of tone found in some of the later writings, especially in the tracts prepared by Dr. Rouse of Calcutta, and translated and published at Lodi-ana for the Christian Literature Society.

There is a place almost entirely unoccupied in the Literary field—Muslim section. The place should be filled by tracts or books on the essential points of Faith and Practice, written without reference to whether the reader is a Muslim or not. The subjects are something like these; God, Man, Sin, Salvation, The Sphere of the Law, Incarnation, Atonement, Repentance, Regeneration, Revelation, Inspiration, The prophet, The Priest, The Kingdom of God, &c. &c.

Who will undertake the careful preparation of a new literature on these old but fundamental subjects?

The Church Standard is bold to

say: "The worst craze of our age is that which magnifies our rights and forgets our obligations. It is this, from first to last, that lies at the root of all our labor troubles, on whichever side the fault may be, and we believe it is on both sides. It is this that breaks up homes and fills the records of divorce courts. It is this that sends corrupt men to deal with other corrupt men in the lobbies of our legislatures. It is this that leads to nearly every war that wets the earth with human blood. Contempt for God's law lies at the root of all these evils, and contempt for human laws lies very near to the atheistic lawlessness which defies God. Shall we add that nine-tenths of the Church's troubles, both doctrinal and ceremonial, are rooted in the same contempt for all rule and authority in the Church of God? And yet the Church of God and all its members should be setting to the world the sorely-needed example of obedience to the law, which the church itself received from the great Head of the Church."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Japan has, perhaps, the shortest of all national anthems. It is called 'Kimi Ga Yo,' from its first three words, and consists of thirty-two syllables, which count in poetry, however, as thirty-one. The exceeding brevity is due to the national fondness for conciseness of phrase and for economy of expression.

MADE IN JAPAN

France holds the record as a user of gold. She has coined 2,800 tons in the last 40 years against 1,409 used by English Mint.

REVIEW OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE FOR MUSLIM IN URDU.

THE WRITINGS OF DR. MURRAY MITCHELL.

Dr. Murray Mitchell is the author of a volume entitled *LETTERS TO INDIAN YOUTH*. This volume was first translated into Urdu by the Rev. J.D. Brown of the American M.E. Mission, with the aid of the late Rev. Rajab Ali. The Urdu of that translation was so high as to be difficult for ordinary readers. For this reason a second translation was made by a Munshi, under the supervision of the Rev. E. M. Wherry of Lodiana. This translation was first published serially and issued in the form of *monthly tracts* for free distribution. They were afterwards issued in a single volume entitled :

KHUTÚT BANÁM JAWÁNÁN-I-HIND.

Printed at the Lodiana Mission Press for the Punjab Religious Book Society Lahore, 306 pp, 12 mo, Boards. Price 4 as.

The First Letter is devoted to the importance of the search for the True Religion. The whole number of letters is fourteen including the Introduction just mentioned. The intent of the author is to present in a sympathetic manner the Evidence of Christianity as the only True Religion. The contents of the Book will be evident from the following general statement showing the subjects discussed in the order of the letters as published.

II. The Need of Prayer and the guidance of Gods' Holy Spirit in order to a proper study of religion.

III. The New Testament Scriptures. The question of antiquity and genuineness discussed.

IV. The Credibility of the New Testament demonstrated.

V. The argument from miracles.

VI. The testimony of Prophecy.

VII. The internal evidence of Inspiration found in the New Testament Scriptures.

VIII. The teachings of the Bible compared with the teachings of Nature.

IX. The essential characteristics of the Christian Religion.

X. Christianity compared with other Religions claiming to be revealed.

XI. The arguments for the truth of Hinduism considered *Pro* and *Con*.

XII. The Religion of Islám tested by an examination of (1) the external evidence and (2) the internal evidence.

XIII. Conclusions drawn from the argument presented in letters xi. and xii.

XIV. The proof of Christianity by reference to the argument of experience.

The tone and language of these letters is exceedingly good. The latest edition needs some revision before being re-published. When published again the book should be issued in a less expensive form.

Current Thought & Incident.

THE INCANDESCENT MANTLE.

It was in 1885 that Auer von Welsbach was experimenting with certain rare earths in his laboratory, using a sheet of asbestos to protect the beaker containing the solution of the salts from the fierce flame of the Bunsen burner. He noticed that when a small quantity of the liquid boiled over and evaporated, leaving a thin coating on the ragged, projecting edge of the asbestos, these fibres became endowed with a marvelous power of incandescence. The Bunsen flame is practically non-luminous; but the asbestos, coated with the material he had been heating, became mysteriously but splendidly effulgent.

From that trifling incident arose a series of experiments and successes which have made his name world-famous. The hitherto despised "ceria" and "thoria," which our cyclopedias had been accustomed to inform us were "of no practical value," suddenly assumed a marketable worth, and the refuse of the laboratory became the delight of the home. Poured through this delicate, fragile, ghost-like bit of netting, the heretofore non-luminous mixture of air and gas becomes "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." The poor, despised earth takes on a marvelous effulgence; and that which has no power of shining in itself, any more than an adobe block of mud, becomes brighter than a star.

That is what our Lord would make of us. The sinful soul is but the slag left in the crucible of torment,—itself without form or comeliness; but let the life of the Spirit pour through it, and it becomes a beacon that lights the storm-tossed mariner to his safe harbor. What were the fishermen of Galilee but "ceria" or "thoria," mere human slag in the eyes of the great world? But when made the receptacles and revealers of the life of the Spirit, they threw out their beams upon all ages. What was Luther but a monk, with the narrowness and bitterness and darkness of his order as his sole characteristics? But when the light of God shone through him, he brought millions of happy and redeemed souls to the glorious know-

ledge of the truth. What was John B. Gough but a poor, wandering drunken journeyman printer, without strength to meet a rude touch or survive the devil's shaking? But when the life of the Spirit flowed through him he became a bright and shining light, and thousands were saved by his mission of splendor.

"Of no commercial value," the world may say of us, and heaven may so judge us too. But Jesus Christ is able to make of each poor soul, dull and opaque by nature, "an incandescent mental" through which his own life in passing sheds hope and joy upon a world.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER OF CHINA.

There is probably no man living to-day who is so well qualified to judge of the missionary outlook in China as Dr. W. A. P. MARTIN, of Peking, who reached New York recently from the Chinese Capital. He has made his home in Peking since 1863, spending more than forty years in the service of the Imperial Government, his last appointment being that of President of the Imperial University. He went through the siege of the Legations in Peking.

On arrival at Vancouver, Dr. Martin found a telegram from the great Yangtze Viceroy Ch'ang Ch'ih Tung, asking him to take charge of a new university in his capital, besides becoming his own adviser on international questions. The doctor intends to return to China to take up this position next summer.

In an interesting account of the advance of Christianity in China, he said that he thought the outlook had never been so good. Education is everywhere in the air. Colleges and graded schools are ordered to be established in the provinces, and the presses of the missions are unable to turn out scientific books fast enough to meet the demand of readers.

Concerning the Empress Dowager, Dr. Martin said:—"To my certain knowledge she had progressive ideas during the minority of the present Emperor, and I think that some of the Imperial edicts that caused the reactionary element at Court to call upon her to come from her seclusion and save the Empire were originally suggested by herself. But having been recalled to power by the conservatives, she threw herself into their arms, took a back track, and abolished the liberal measures that had been adopted. After the relief of the Legations she again displayed liberality towards progressive ideas, which some people thought to be merely intended to de-

ceive foreigners. But this is quite in keeping with her earlier history, during which she had the young Emperor instructed in English. His teachers had formerly been pupils of my own, and they brought me his lessons to correct. I understand she is studying English herself, and that she uses it when she can. When she received the ladies of the foreign legations last February, she took them into her private apartments, where she threw herself on her couch at full length to show her guests how she slept, and then invited them to follow her example and see "how it felt" to lie down on the imperial couch, and whether they would be comfortable on it. That was a curious revelation on character in one of the most (hitherto) unapproachable women in history, of the most powerful woman that China has yet produced, and the woman who holds in her hands to-day the destinies of that great Empire.

"She has become satisfied through her recent defeat that China can never conquer the foreign Powers by force of arms, but that if she wishes to maintain continual peace she must rush modern education through the Empire, and by strengthening it in this way bar any aggression on the part of Western nations."

ROGER MARTIN.

THE GROWTH OF ENGLISH.

One of the most interesting studies of modern civilization is the growth of English as a world tongue. At the beginning of the nineteenth century French was the dominant language of the world. It no longer holds its place. English is to-day the language of 116,000,000 people. The Russian tongue is spoken by 85,000,000, the German by 80,000,000, and the French by 58,000,000. English owes its supremacy to the fact that it is spoken by the two great nations foremost, not alone in commerce, but in civilization. British and American free institutions have been, to a large extent, prime factors in the spread of the progressive, virile, and majestic yet flexible, language. Three-fifths of all the newspapers in the world are printed in the English language, and two-thirds of all the letters written are couched in the same tongue. A glance at the map of the world shows that to-day English has no rival in the struggle for supremacy as a world language save the Russian and German. Russia has been, indeed, making gigantic strides in territorial expansion, and modern German statesmanship has resolutely determined on the foundation of a great colonial German empire.

But, with the irresistible growth and expansion of England's great colonies and of America, the English language cannot be displaced by any other tongue as a world encircling language.

THE ROLLING PLANT.

There is an extraordinary plant which grows in the Kansas Valley. A more curious specimen has never been observed by the naturalist. It grows in the form of a ball, its stem being extremely small in proportion to the size of the entire plant, which varies in size from a foot to four feet and a half in diameter. Whilst growing it is firmly fixed to its stem, which, in its turn, is rooted in the ground; but as soon as the plant has arrived at maturity the stem shrivels up, and then a gust of wind is quite powerful enough to set the ball rolling across the prairie. It rolls, leaps, bounds, sometimes even jumping over bushes, impelled by the force of the wind. When the winds rise high it is impossible to imagine anything stranger the sight of these huge light and elastic balls, which appear to pursue one another, skimming the surface of the soil with extraordinary rapidity.

It is related how two hunters, overtaken by a violent storm of wind and dust, descried some curious objects bounding towards them, which at first they thought to be wild animals; on coming nearer, however, they were found to be none other than the rolling plants of Kansas borne before the wind.

THE AUSTRALIAN MOSQUITO.—Australia seems to be afflicted with a bad sort of mosquito. The *Sydney Mail* says:—"On dwellers in the bush their onslaughts are simply terrific. Nothing whatever seems to come amies to them; and their size and ferocity must be seen and felt to be credited. They move in detachments of trillions, or thereabouts, and woe to the living thing that meets them. Curiously enough each of these immense swarms appears to have its definite location and boundary, generally around a water-hole or swamp. At one particular spot the traveller may be attacked by a horde of small brown viragos. Moving on for a few hundred yards accompanied by these he will, to his surprise and disgust, find them succeeded by an altogether different tribe of torturers, perhaps almost black in colour. Then, after a while, he is taken charge of by a legion of Amazons (if, as is said, it is the female only who phlebotomises), with beautifully striped and spotted bodies, and nearly the size of a small Barcelona nut.

Neither fine netting worn over the face, nor gloves on the hands, form much of a protection out of doors. These vampires, in their endeavours to extract their favourite nutriment, seem really, this season at least to stick at nothing, or perhaps it would be more correct to say on everything; and birds, even, have been observed surrounded by living clouds and sitting on a branch or on the ground, picking up in their agony, first one foot and the other, but otherwise motionless, being afraid to move their wings lest the enemy should take advantage and swoop on to the tender flesh underneath."

Things to Forget.

If you would increase your happiness and prolong your life, forget your neighbor's faults. Forget the slander you have heard. Forget the temptations. Forget the faultfinding and give a little thought to the cause which provoked it. Forget peculiarities of your friends, and only remember the good points which make you fond of them. Forget all personal quarrels or histories you may have heard by accident, and which, if repeated, would seem a thousand times worse than they are. Blot out as far as possible all the disagreeables of life; they will come, but they will grow larger when you remember them, and the constant thought of the acts of meanness, or, worse still, malice, will only tend to make you more familiar with them. Obliterate everything disagreeable from yesterday; start out with a clean sheet for to-day, and write upon it for sweet memory's sake only those things which are lovely and lovable.

THE TRUMPETER.

ARE COLDS CATCHING?

According to an Edinburgh doctor, the person suffering from a cold who attends a public or private indoor gathering, perhaps with children and people troubled with delicate chests, throats, etc., is an immediate source of of perilous infection, to be guarded against as sedulously as though it were a case of diphtheria or scarlet fever. The minute creatures whose special business it is to disseminate misery in the shape of colds and catarrhs rejoice in the title of anaerobic saprophytes, a name sufficiently dreadful in itself, one might think, to give a delicate person nervous prostration. Our Edinburgh authority says that whenever he calls at a house and finds a patient suffering from cold he always

warns the members of the household of its effectiveness and advises the avoidance, as much as possible, of all immediate personal contact. Kissing must be a common source of contagion, he says.

Telegrams.

London, July 3.

The *Lancet*, describing the progress made by the king, says that all His Majesty's subjects will rejoice to hear that his constitution is admirable.

London July 3.

Thirteen Indian Princes laid wreaths on Queen Victoria's tomb at Frogmore to-day.

Calcutta, July 4.

The *Indian Daily News* has the following cablegram from London, dated July 3:—

An eminent Court doctor informs me that all danger is now over.

London, July 3.

Prince Komatsu and his entire suite had a farewell audience of the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Throughout his visit Prince Komatsu has been conspicuously honoured. For instance, he was the only foreign representative to be formally banquetted at the Mansion House.

Calcutta, July 3.

It is in contemplation to invite attendance at the Delhi Durbar of any British soldiers and of any Europeans and Eurasians who bore arms at Lucknow and Delhi during the Mutiny. Officers commanding stations have been requested to ascertain and submit as soon as possible the names of any persons who are willing to accept such invitation.

London, July 3.

The 7 o'clock bulletin says that His Majesty passed a comfortable day.

Allahabad, July 5.

A special cablegram to the *Pioneer* says:—The Government is understood to be willing to release immediately foreign prisoners of war who can pay their own passages, provided they do not return to South Africa.

A German Boer aid fund is now being subscribed in order to assist German prisoners to return to the fatherland.

London, July 4.

Mr. Chamberlain presided at a conference of Premiers this morning. Lord Selborne and Mr. Brodrick with advisers were present. The question of Imperial defence was discussed.

London, July 4.

The East India Railway has ordered 32 locomotives from a German firm whose tender was 20 per cent. lower than the next English firm.

London, July 4.

Mr. Roosevelt's proclamation of amnesty to all insurrectionists unless guilty of military crimes. All must swear allegiance to the United States.

London, July 4.

Ras Makonnen has had an audience of the Prince of Wales.

London, July 4.

Lord George Hamilton has ascertained that the Standard Oil Company has not obtained from the Indian Government a prospecting licence in Burma.

The Kaiser, after distributing prizes at the regatta at Travemünde, read a telegram announcing that King Edward is recovering, and called for cheers for the King of England.

London, July 6.

China has appealed to the United States to use her good offices to secure the evacuation of Tien tsin.

Simla, July 7.

A disastrous fire, which a few hours ago threatened to sweep away a large part of the Mall and the whole of the lower bazaar, besides the fine new telegraph office to the north and the kitchen buildings to the south, is raging at the present moment in Simla. Fortunately the worst is over, and extensive as the damage is there is considered to be no danger of further developments.

London, July 7.

The *Times*' correspondent at Johannesburg states that anxiety is felt regarding the supply of native labour. There will probably be a permanent difficulty in making the supply of native labour keep pace with the growing requirements of the Rand.

Calcutta, July 8.

A cablegram to the *Englishman* states that Sir Redvers Buller has published the Lady-smith heliograms, which differ immaterially from the versions in the *Times*' History of the War.

London, July 7.

The Khedive has left Constantinople for Devonne (?)

London, July 7.

The horse of Mr. Chamberlain's hansom fell at Whitehall this afternoon, and a glass shutter dropped, inflicting a severe but not dangerous scalp wound. Mr. Chamberlain was taken to Charing Cross Hospital where he remains for the night.

His immediate engagements are cancelled.

London, July 7.

Mr. Brodrick has said that he fully concurred with Lord Robert's disciplinary measures at Sandhurst.

London, July 7.

Lord George Hamilton in the House of Commons says that he is unable to fix a date when factories rendering India self-supporting in war material will be completed.

London, July 7.

Slatin Pasha has been interviewed by Reuter's Vienna correspondent, who says that he advocates the introduction into the Soudan of strong but not speedy automobiles as substitutes for railways. He favours the development of the Soudan on agricultural, not mining, lines.

Bombay, July 8.

News comes from Aden of the exciting chase of a dhow engaged in smuggling arms. By his alliance with the Myjirtains the Mad Mullah secures a long coast line through which to smuggle arms, and Captain Pears of the *Perseus*, finding that whenever he drew near, the Arabs threw their contraband overboard, armed a dhow and placed a crew of bluejackets on board. A dhow was sighted in suspicious circumstances, and as she refused to heave to she was shelled by a three-pounder which brought down her sails. One Arab offered resistance on boarding and was cut down. The British party then entered into possession of the prize, which was carrying 64 rifles and a quantity of material for making gunpowder and bullets. Three of the dhow's crew were killed, but none of the British party was injured.

London, July 8.

The King's progress is all that can be desired.

London, July 8.

The *Times* says that there is reason to believe that it is practically settled for the coronation to take place in August.

Reuter understands that the King himself is pressing forward the coronation.

His Majesty may possibly pass a short time previously on his yacht, but not leave London for a long period until the coronation is over.

London, July 8.

The Maharaja of Jaipur has given £5,000 to the King's Hospital Fund.

London, July 8.

The Crown Prince of Siam has arrived at Paris. He was received by M. Loubet.

Calcutta, July 8.

The *Englishman* writes: "We have reason to believe that tentative arrangements are being made in India for the reception of the Prince and Princess of Wales in December. The presumption, therefore, is that Their Royal Highnesses will be present at the Delhi Durbar, though nothing definite has yet been settled. A good deal depends, of course, on the date fixed for the coronation."

Allahabad, July 9.

The latest reports from Kabul state that the Amir has not yet moved to his summer residence in the Paghman hills. His highness is said to be concerning himself mostly with military matters. He is showing special interest in the drill and training of the troops stationed in and about Kabul. He has issued orders for the preparation of 12,000 small tents, each capable of accommodating eight sepoy, as part of the field equipment of the Afghan army.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Two balloons, each of ten thousand cubic feet capacity, and a steel cable with insulated copper core have been ordered from England for use at the Delhi manoeuvres.

The Karnal district and the Kalsia State in the Punjab are both declared to be free of plague.

Our Calcutta correspondent telegraphs that Mr. Wenne has definitely accepted the offer of the Pekin syndicate and has accordingly resigned his position as Agent of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Mr. Beckett, who is at present officiating, will probably be confirmed in the appointment.

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